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WARS
2099
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NEW YORK IS NO MORE! IN ITS PLACE STANDS NUEVA YORK, A TOWERING METROPOLIS FILLED WITH NEW INCARNATIONS OF THE HEROES OF THE PAST! TAKING ON THE MANTLES OF SUCH HEROES AS CAPTAIN AMERICA, IRON MAN, AND HAWKEYE, THESE NEW AVENGERS FIGHT FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND MEGACORPORATIONS LIKE ALCHEMAX. THIS IS

SECRET WARS 2099

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED!

THE HEROES OF EARTH-616 AND EARTH-1610 WERE POWERLESS TO SAVE IT!

NOW ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

A MASSIVE PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF THE FRAGMENTS OF WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM!

EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF!

IN ONE SUCH DOMAIN, IN A FUTURISTIC METROPOLIS CALLED NUEVA YORK, THE AVENGERS ARE CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAWKEYE, HERCULES, IRON MAN, THE BLACK WIDOW AND VISION. LED BY MIGUEL STONE, THEY WORK TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY, AS WELL AS ALCHEMAX'S INTERESTS.

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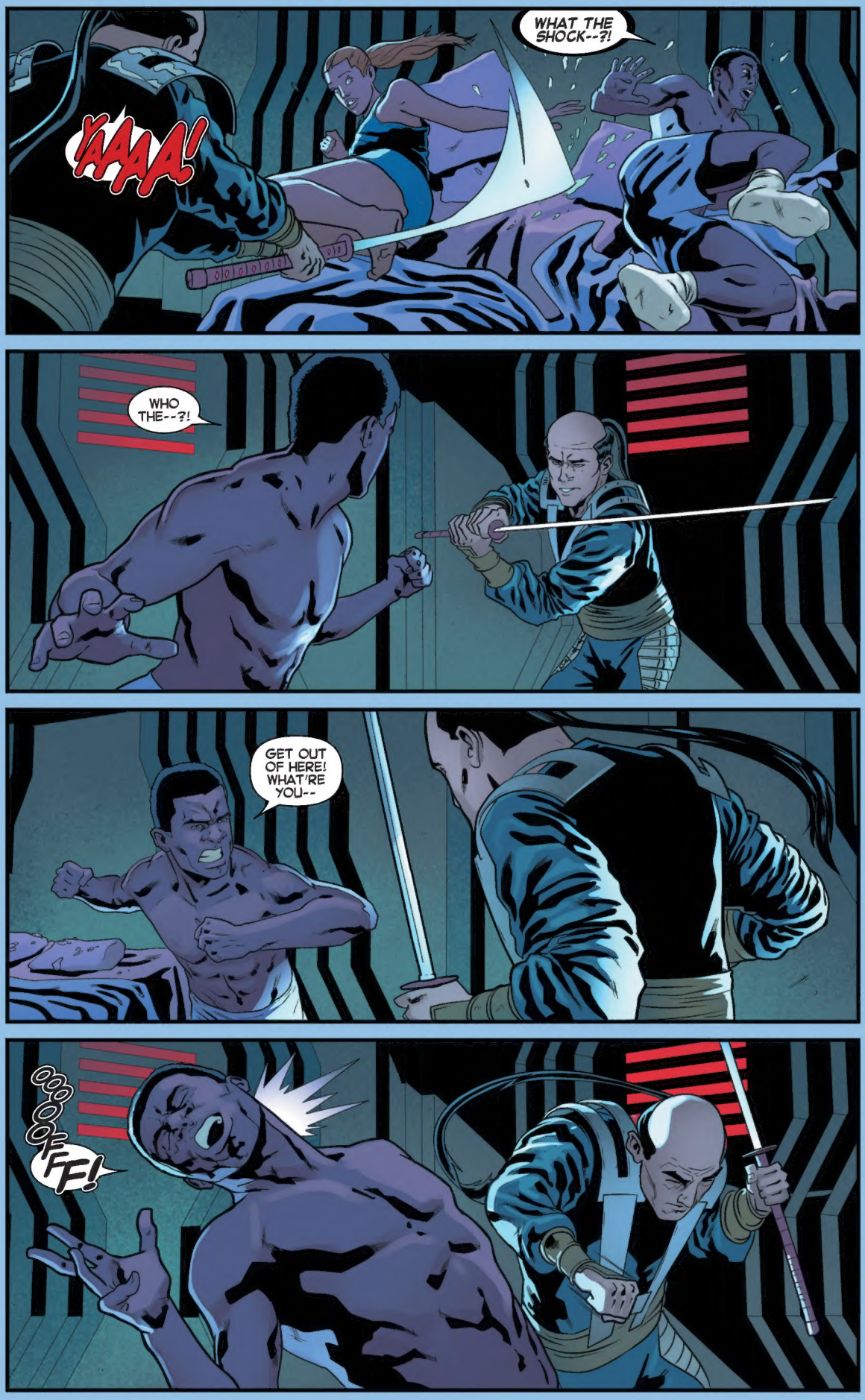
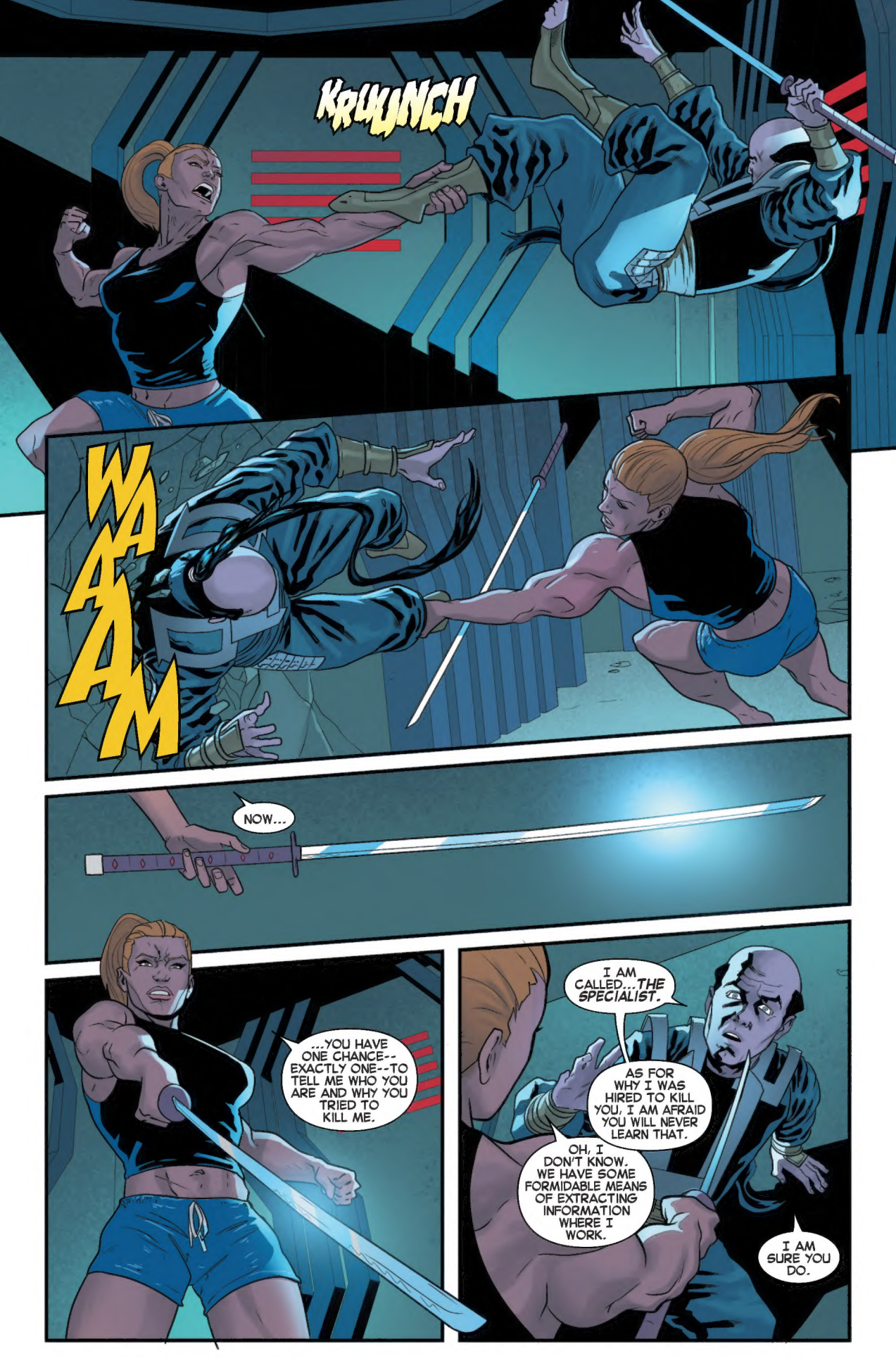
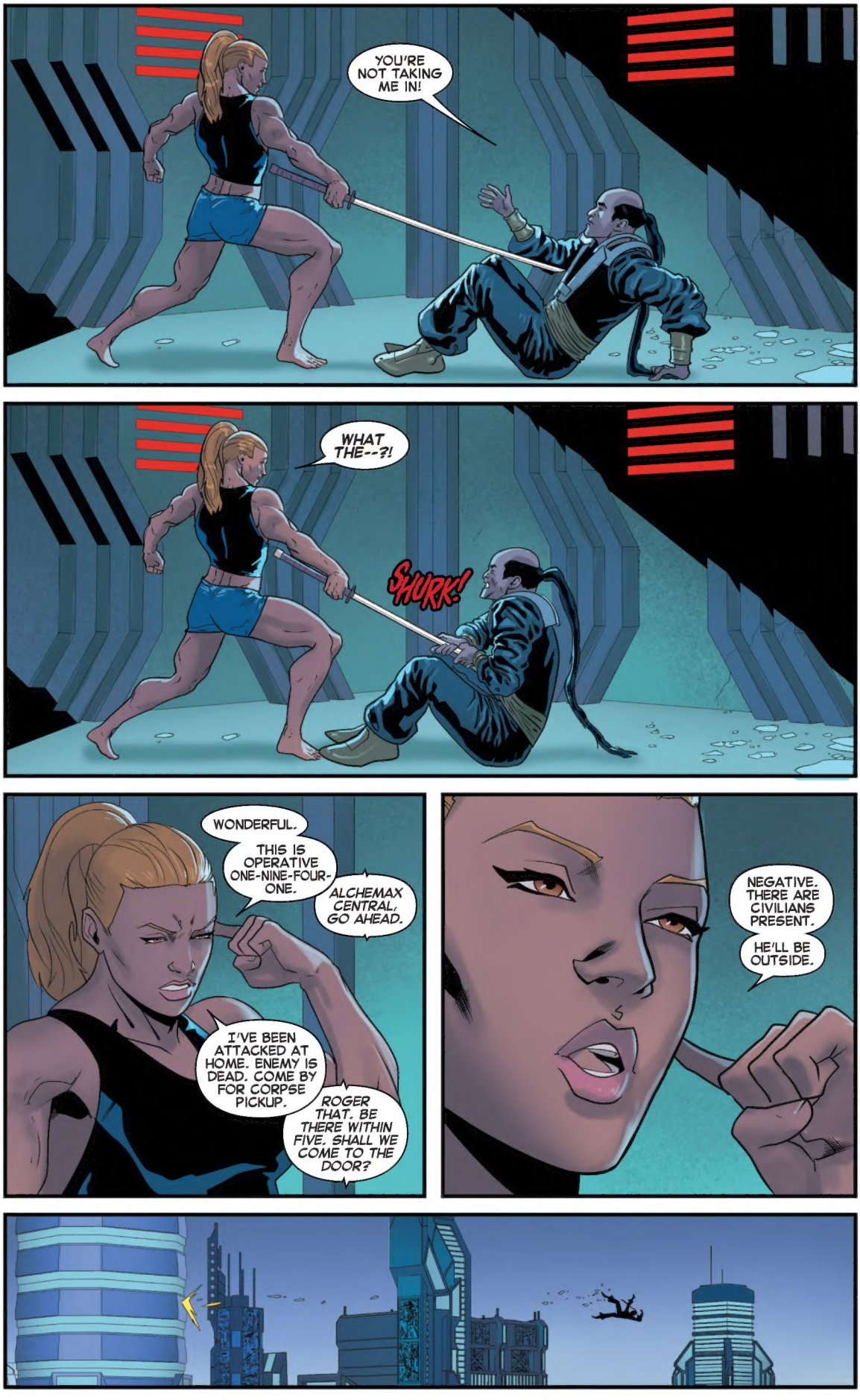
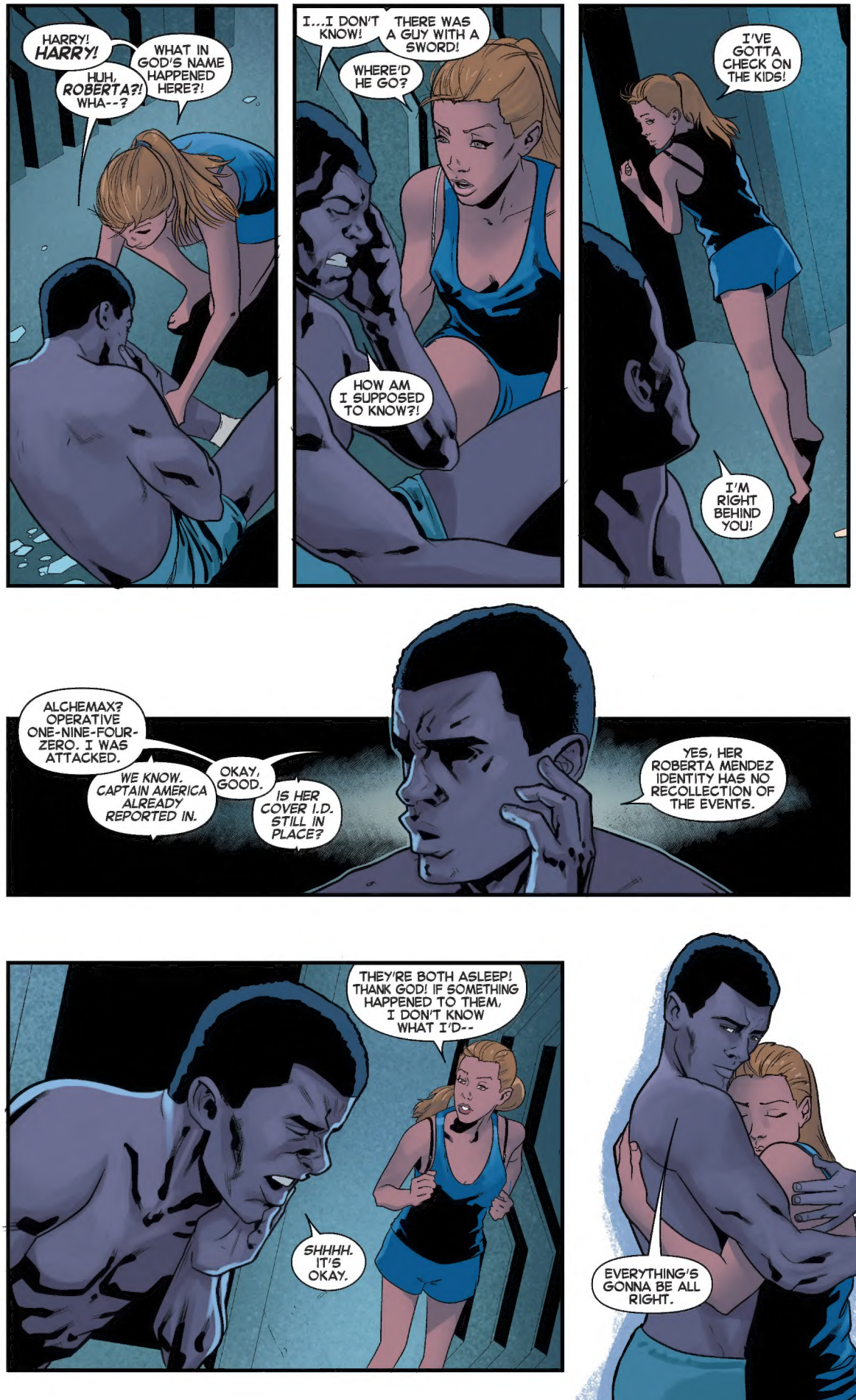
NEUVA YORK.
THE YEAR 2099.
HUH?


YAAAA!
WHAT THE SHOCK--?!
WHO THE--?!
GET OUT OF HERE! WHAT'RE YOU--
OOOOFF!

CARE TO TRY THAT AGAIN?
I DON'T NORMALLY KILL, BUT I'D BE WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION IN YOUR CASE.
WHAT... ARE YOU?
YOU TRIED TO KILL ME. I THINK I GET TO ASK THE QUESTIONS.
WAAAM
OW.
WAIT. SORRY. NOT "OW." I MEANT TO SAY...
MY TURN.


KRUUNCH
WAAAM
NOW...
...YOU HAVE ONE CHANCE--EXACTLY ONE--TO TELL ME WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU TRIED TO KILL ME.
I AM CALLED...THE SPECIALIST.
AS FOR WHY I WAS HIRED TO KILL YOU, I AM AFRAID YOU WILL NEVER LEARN THAT.
OH, I DON'T KNOW. WE HAVE SOME FORMIDABLE MEANS OF EXTRACTING INFORMATION WHERE I WORK.
I AM SURE YOU DO.


YOU'RE NOT TAKING ME IN!
WHAT THE--?!
SHURK!
WONDERFUL.
THIS IS OPERATIVE ONE-NINE-FOUR-ONE.
ALCHEMAX CENTRAL, GO AHEAD.
I'VE BEEN ATTACKED AT HOME. ENEMY IS DEAD. COME BY FOR CORPSE PICKUP.
ROGER THAT. BE THERE WITHIN FIVE. SHALL WE COME TO THE DOOR?
NEGATIVE. THERE ARE CIVILIANS PRESENT.
HE'LL BE OUTSIDE.


HARRY!
HARRY!
HUH, ROBERTA?!
WHA--?
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME HAPPENED HERE?!
I...I DON'T KNOW!
THERE WAS A GUY WITH A SWORD!
WHERE'D HE GO?
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW?!
I'VE GOTTA CHECK ON THE KIDS!
I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
ALCHEMAX? OPERATIVE ONE-NINE-FOUR-ZERO. I WAS ATTACKED.
WE KNOW. CAPTAIN AMERICA ALREADY REPORTED IN.
OKAY, GOOD.
IS HER COVER I.D. STILL IN PLACE?
YES, HER ROBERTA MENDEZ IDENTITY HAS NO RECOLLECTION OF THE EVENTS.
THEY'RE BOTH ASLEEP! THANK GOD! IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO THEM, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'D--
SHHHH. IT'S OKAY.
EVERYTHING'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

THAT WAS THE SPECIALIST, ALL RIGHT.
YOU KILLED HIM, CAP? NOT TYPICALLY YOUR STYLE.
ALCHEMAX
I DIDN'T KILL HIM, MR. STONE. HE SLAMMED HIMSELF FORWARD ONTO HIS SWORD.
YOU KNOW, IF ANYONE ELSE THAT WORKS FOR ME TOLD ME THAT, I'D FIGURE THEY WERE FULL OF CRAP.
YOU, I BELIEVE.
BUT WHO WAS THE SPECIALIST?
HE WAS A SAMURAI--ONE OF THE LAST KNOWN ONES--AND HE WORKED FOR STARK-FUJIKAWA.
WHY WOULD S-F WANT TO KILL ME?
WELL, THERE'S A FIVE-MILLION-CREDIT BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD, BUT THAT'S CHUMP CHANGE FOR THEM.
AND HOW DID THEY KNOW ABOUT ROBERTA?
IT'S POSSIBLE WE HAVE AN INTERNAL LEAK.
I'LL HAVE SONNY USE HIS IRON MAN TECH TO RUN A CHECK ON OUR COMPUTER SYSTEMS. SEE IF ANYONE HAS BEEN TAPPING INTO IT.
MEANWHILE, I'LL HAVE A 24-HOUR WATCH PUT ON YOUR HOME.
THANK YOU, SIR.
DISMISSED.
I NEVER GET TIRED OF WATCHING THAT.

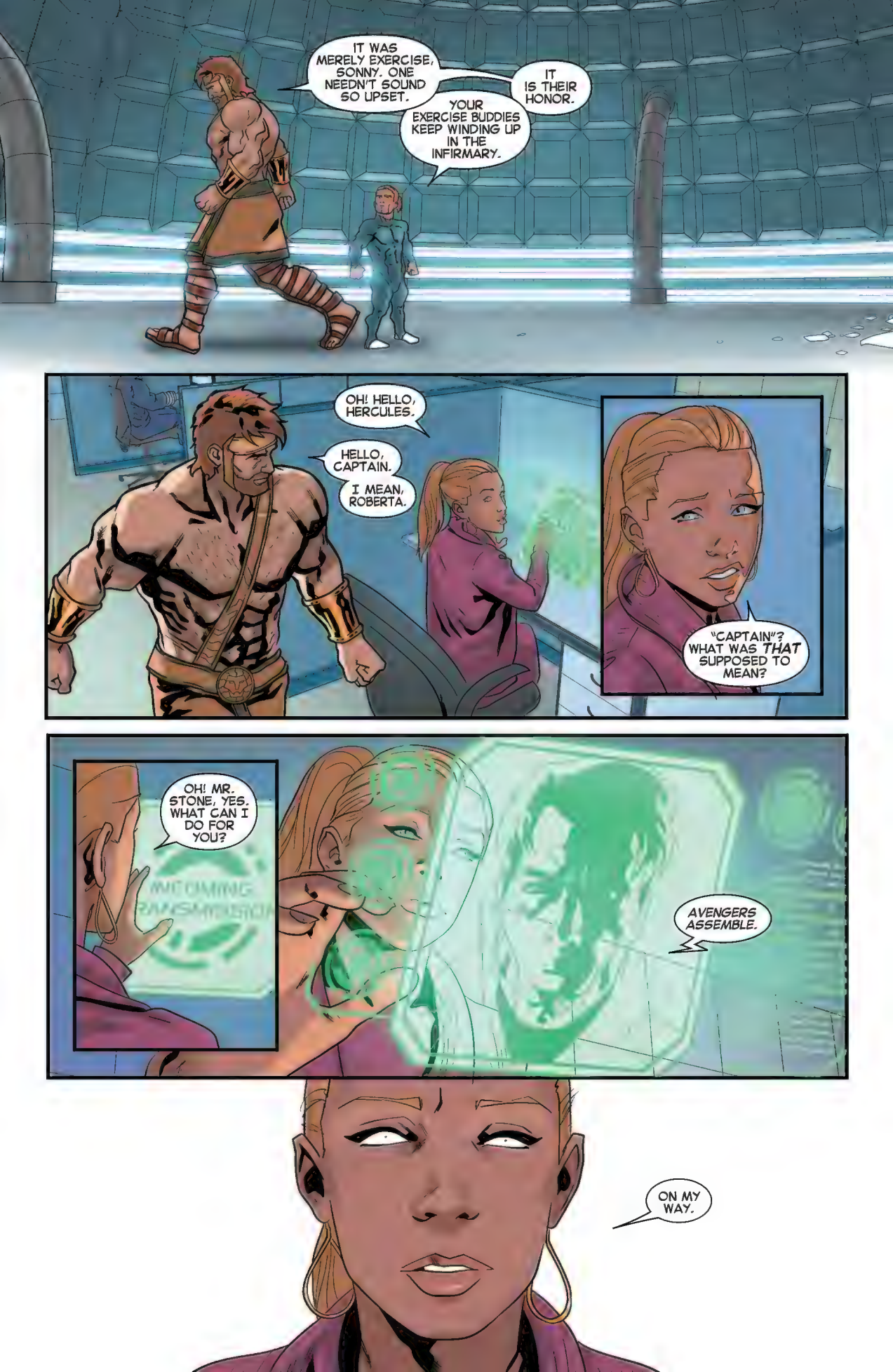
MEANWHILE.
THIS IS THE LONGEST YOU'VE KEPT PACE WITH ME SO FAR, HAWK.
MAKE THAT MOVE, YOU'RE IN CHECK.
DON'T WANT TO MAKE THAT MOVE, EITHER.
THAT'LL GIVE ME MATE IN THREE MOVES.
RRAARRRRRR
I GUESS YOU WIN.

MAX? CAN YOU GIVE TANIA AND ME THE ROOM, PLEASE?
WHY?!
BECAUSE I ASKED POLITELY.
AND BECAUSE IF YOU GIVE ME LIP, I'LL THROW YOU BACK INTO THE DEVICE THAT SPIT YOU OUT, COMBINE YOU WITH A WEASEL, AND SEE HOW MUCH ATTITUDE YOU GIVE ME THEN.
FINE.
YOU'VE GOT TO STOP PLAYING CHESS WITH HIM.
IT AMUSES ME.
WELL, I GUESS YOUR AMUSEMENT IS WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT.
TANIA, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF A GUY NAMED FRANCIS NOVAK?
NO.
REALLY?
NEVER.
WANT TO HEAR ABOUT HIM?
NOT ESPECIALLY.
HE WAS MARRIED AND HIS WIFE WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED. POLICE BELIEVED HE DID IT BUT COULDN'T PROVE IT.
THEN HE WAS GOING WITH ANOTHER GIRL AND SHE TURNED UP DEAD. INVESTIGATION WAS GOING NOWHERE.

SOUNDS NASTY.
WOMEN SHOULD WATCH OUT FOR HIM.
FUNNY YOU SHOULD SAY THAT.
OH? WHY?
HE WAS FOUND DEAD THIS MORNING.
DEAD AND HALF EATEN.
THAT SOUNDS NASTY.
IT WAS. SO TELL ME, TANIA...
IF I RUN A DNA SCAN ON HIS CORPSE, HOW MANY SECONDS DO YOU THINK IT WILL TAKE ME TO FIND TRACES OF YOUR SALIVA IN HIM?
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT, MIGUEL.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T.
I FIND THIS AGAIN, TANIA, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ANOTHER CONVERSATION THAT WON'T END THIS PEACEFULLY.
SO EITHER STOP DOING IT OR GET BETTER AT HIDING YOUR KILLS. UNDERSTOOD?
YES, SIR. HEY, MIGUEL--?
YEAH?
HAVE ANY PLANS TONIGHT?

IS THAT...THE BEST YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH... JUNKPILE...?
JUST... GIMME A MOMENT...TO CATCH MY BREATH...
YOU HAVE NO MOMENTS, MY FRIEND.
FOR THE PRINCE OF POWER IS FINISHED WITH YOU!
KRAAASH

AWWWW... NO YA DON'T. YOU DON'T GET OFF...THAT EASY...
AYE! I DO!
FOR I AM HERCULES! SON OF ZEUS! PRINCE OF POWER!
YOU CANNOT STAND AGAINST ME! NO ONE CAN! I AM INVINCIBLE!
I AM--
HERCULES! THAT'S ENOUGH!
BACK OFF. NOW.


IT WAS MERELY EXERCISE, SONNY. ONE NEEDN'T SOUND SO UPSET.
IT IS THEIR HONOR.
YOUR EXERCISE BUDDIES KEEP WINDING UP IN THE INFIRMARY.
OH! HELLO, HERCULES.
HELLO, CAPTAIN.
I MEAN, ROBERTA.
"CAPTAIN"? WHAT WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
OH! MR. STONE, YES. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
INCOMING TRANSMISSION
AVENGERS ASSEMBLE.
ON MY WAY.

WE FOUND A BUSINESS CARD ON THE SPECIALIST'S BODY. IT BELONGS TO A MARTIN HARGOOD.
AND HE WOULD BE?
AN OPERATOR DOWNTOWN. GUN RUNNER, WEAPONS MASTER, ALL-AROUND CRIMINAL TYPE.
AND YOU THINK HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON ROBERTA?
I HAVE NO IDEA. I FIGURED YOU'D WANT TO FIND OUT.
I DO INDEED. BUT DO WE REALLY NEED THE ENTIRE TEAM?
IT WOULD HELP TO PUT A SCARE INTO HIM.
IF WE NEED TO PUT A SCARE INTO HIM, I'M ALL FOR VOLUNTEERING.
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD.
GRAB A QUINJET AND GET GOING.
LET'S GO, TEAM. MR. HARGOOD TRIED TO KILL ME LAST NIGHT.
"AND I'M INTERESTED IN ASKING HIM WHY."
AVENGERS

LATVERIAN CUISINE
V NDER
ARE YOU MARTIN HARGOOD?
I AM INDEED. AND YOU WOULD BE?
JOHN EISENHART. I NEED TO HAVE WORDS WITH YOU.
AS YOU SEE, I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF LUNCH. SO IF YOU WOULDN'T MIND--
KRAAAASH
I'M SORRY, I DON'T SEEM TO HAVE HAD YOUR ATTENTION. IS THIS BETTER?
WHAT DO YOU WANT, MR. EISENHART?
I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH YOUR AFTER-HOURS ACTIVITIES.
AND WHAT WOULD THOSE BE?
WE GOING TO PLAY THIS GAME?
FINE. LET'S PLAY.
PUT HIM DOWN.

NOW.
BUG OFF, AVENGERS.
EXCUSE ME?
I SAID GET OUT OF HERE. THIS ISN'T YOUR FIGHT.
OR WHAT?
OR THIS.
ANY QUESTIONS?

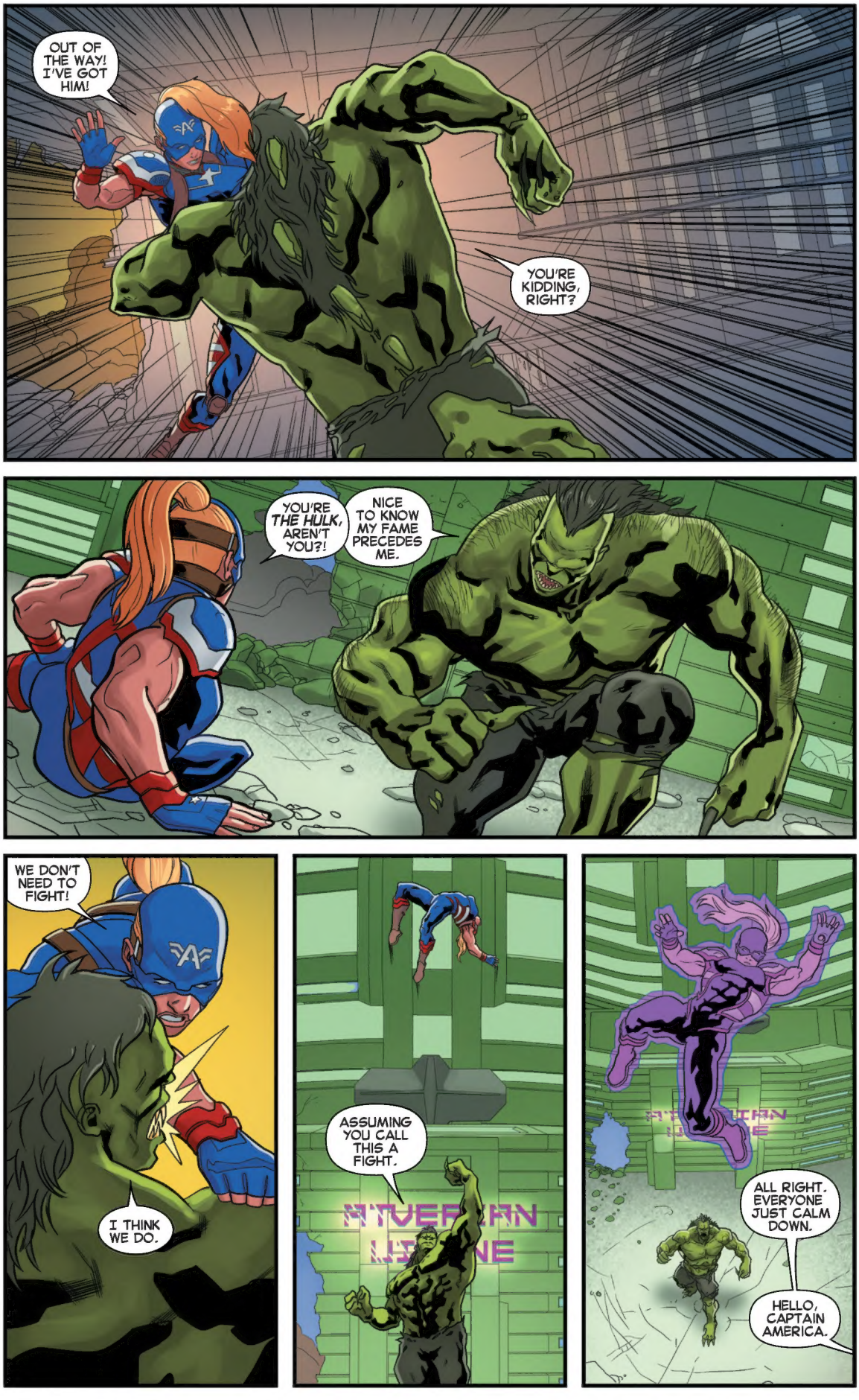
AYE! THE QUESTION IS...
...WHERE DO YOU WANT THY REMAINS ATTENDED TO?!
I'M SORRY. WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A THREAT?
KRAAASSH

IRON MAN! TAKE HIM!
HE'S TAKEN.

UNNHHH...

YES! EXCELLENT! A LITTLE TO THE RIGHT...
PERFECT! THANKS. THAT TAKES CARE OF THE ITCH.

LET ME RETURN THE FAVOR.


OUT OF THE WAY! I'VE GOT HIM!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
YOU'RE THE HULK, AREN'T YOU?!
NICE TO KNOW MY FAME PRECEDES ME.
WE DON'T NEED TO FIGHT!
I THINK WE DO.
ASSUMING YOU CALL THIS A FIGHT.
ALL RIGHT. EVERYONE JUST CALM DOWN.
HELLO, CAPTAIN AMERICA.

WE'RE THE DEFENDERS.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED...

SECRET WARS 2099

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Hello in here, out there, around the world and aboard all the ships at sea! Editor from the Future Devin Lewis reporting to you live and in-print from Marvel HQ!

What a way to wrap Issue 2! When Peter told me he was going to include The Hulk of the year 2099 in this series, I couldn't have been more excited. The Hulk is one of my favorite characters that made the leap into Marvel's 2099 stories, and I'm thrilled that we were able to bring him into Battleworld in this issue.

If you dug it, let us know at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your letters OKAY TO PRINT!

Until then, check out this cover to Issue #3 by Dave Rapoza:

See you in 30 for the bout of the NEXT century -- Defenders 2099 vs Avengers 2099.

All hail Doom!
Devin

MINUTEMEN
Blutman